

## PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 2 Mar 59	2. LOCATION Bloomington, Ill	12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft  <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical  <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 03/0142Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 8 secs	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	9. COURSE NW
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Speck of light, heading NW, approx 50° elev, passed thru an angle of approx 20-25°.		11. COMMENTS It is the opinion that the obj was probably a high flying jet a/c, distance and wind direction accounting for the absence of sound.

On March 2, 1959, I stood on my front porch looking for a star on which to focus my telescope camera. I was looking at Sirius because it seemed to be bright enough to cast an image on the focusing glass on my telescope camera. As I studied the star I noticed a faint speck of light, so faint I would never have detected it if I had not been looking at Sirius, pass under the star. Sirius on a north-westerly heading. At first I thought it might be an artificial moon - perhaps one of the Eppstones - but if it were, I shall think that it would be traveling in the opposite direction. I know it wasn't a meteor, flashed by quickly and leave a momentary streak of light, but this faint light did neither. During the time I saw it - about eight seconds - I tried to estimate the distance it traveled. I should guess that it passed through an angle of about  $20^{\circ}$  -  $25^{\circ}$ . i.e. 

I should guess that the object was at an elevation of about  $30^{\circ}$ . During the time I saw the light, I heard no rumble or roar as would come from a jet plane, and I did not hear such a sound during the three or four minutes I spent trying to detect the light after it lost it. I lost it because I glanced at my watch to check the time which was 7:47 P.M.

During the time I worked for the Ground Observer Corps I saw a few strange things which include a small cloud, a jet plane flying at very high altitude - it made no sound until it was well past my OP, and even a white kite. All of these I identified these objects within half a minute. I have seen a cluster of lights at night all of which proved to be the lights of airplanes. In fact, I have never seen a light quite like it. A sort of a satellite, but I don't think this one was a satellite. If you should find out what it was please notify me because my curiosity is really aroused.

Sincerely yours,

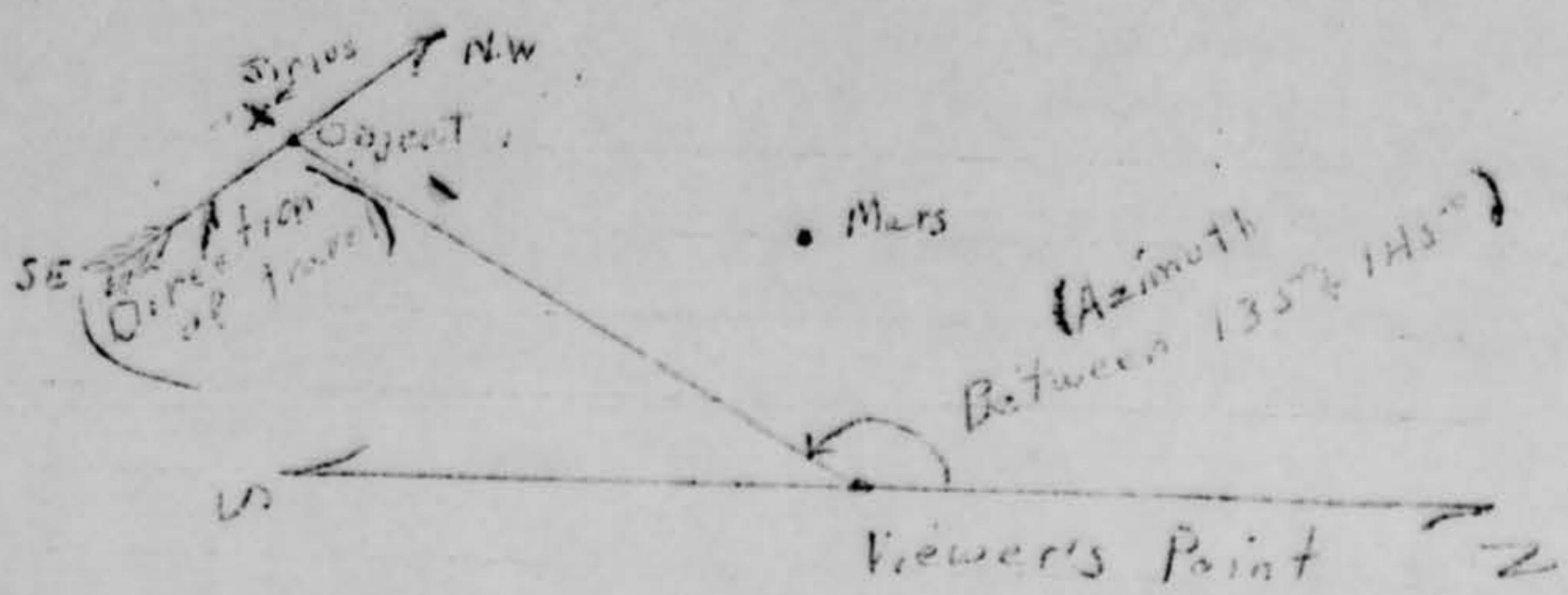
[REDACTED]

Bloomington, Illinois.

ATTC

6MAR59 10 AM

DEC 10 1978



Time: 7:43 P.M.  
March 2, 1959

UFO Sighting

SAFIS-3, ATTN: Maj. Tacker

25 March 1959

AFCIN-4E

1

AFCIN-4E/R/Maj Friend/ac/69216/B1ag 263

454 recipient

1. The possibility of Mr. [REDACTED] observing a satellite was considered. However, the speed of the object was too great and duration too short for a satellite.
2. The duration of the sighting was too great to have been a meteor. The average life of a meteor is 1 second or less.
3. The speed, assuming the witness made a good estimate, is quite high for any aircraft other than an F-104 or B-58. It is known that F-104's operate in this area, and could have been running an intercept mission. The F-104's have four (4) lights on the tail arranged in a perimeter and thus can be seen from almost any angle.
4. It is the opinion of this office that the object was probably a high flying jet aircraft, with distance and wind accounting for the absence of sound.

1 Incl:  
Ltr fr [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (No date)

H. E. GILBERT  
Colonel, USAF  
AFCIN-4E

31 March 1959

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge your letter received at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on 6 March concerning an unidentified flying object sighting in Bloomington, Illinois, on 2 March.

The findings of the Air Technical Intelligence Center reveal the following:

1. The speed of the object was too great and the duration of time observed too short for it to be a satellite.
2. The duration of the sighting was too great to have been a meteor. The average life of a meteor is  $\frac{1}{2}$  second or less.
3. The speed as estimated is quite high for any aircraft other than F-104 or B-58 jets. It is known that F-104s operate in the Bloomington area and this aircraft has four lights on the tail structure arranged in a perimeter so they can be seen from almost any angle.
4. It is the opinion of the Air Technical Intelligence Center that you observed a high-flying jet aircraft with distance and wind accounting for the absence of sound.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER  
Major, USAF  
Executive Officer  
Public Information Division  
Office of Information Services

Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Bloomington, Illinois